



The interplay between knowledge, perceived efficacy, and concern about global warming and climate change: A one-year longitudinal study

Author(s): Milfont TL
Year: 2012
Journal: Risk Analysis : An Official Publication of The Society for Risk Analysis. 32 (6): 1003-1020

Abstract:

If the long-term goal of limiting warming to less than 2 degrees C is to be achieved, rapid and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions are required. These reductions will demand political leadership and widespread public support for action on global warming and climate change. Public knowledge, level of concern, and perceived personal efficacy, in positively affecting these issues are key variables in understanding public support for mitigation action. Previous research has documented some contradictory associations between knowledge, personal efficacy, and concern about global warming and climate change, but these cross-sectional findings limit inferences about temporal stability and direction of influence. This study examines the relationships between these three variables over a one-year period and three waves with national data from New Zealand. Results showed a positive association between the variables, and the pattern of findings was stable and consistent across the three data points. More importantly, results indicate that concern mediates the influence of knowledge on personal efficacy. Knowing more about global warming and climate change increases overall concern about the risks of these issues, and this increased concern leads to greater perceived efficacy and responsibility to help solving them. Implications for risk communication are discussed.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1539-6924.2012.01800.x>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States


Non-United States: Australasia

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified